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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK AND PRIORITIES

Note by the Secretariat**

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I. FULFILMENT OF THE NEW MANDATES OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

A. Mandates arising from action by the Economic and Social Council

1. Acting on a draft proposal forwarded by the thirty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1991/38 of 21 June 1991 entitled "Terms of reference of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs". In paragraph 1 of that resolution, the Council

"Calls upon the Commission on Narcotic Drugs:

(a) To review the implementation of the Global Programme of Action annexed to General Assembly resolution S-17/2 of 23 February 1990, in accordance with paragraph 97 of the Global Programme of Action and General Assembly resolution 45/148 of 18 December 1990;

(b) To review the development and implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control;

(c) To give policy guidance to the new United Nations International Drug Control Programme, based at Vienna, and to monitor its activities."

2. The Commission should thus decide at its present session how it wishes to acquit itself of the mandates entrusted to it by the Council and instruct UNDCP how it will in future consider these matters in its agenda and what documentation will be required. It may be noted that the draft provisional agenda for the thirty-sixth session suggested below in chapter II includes a separate agenda item for review of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) and the System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP). Background information on the establishment of the GPA and SWAP as well as documentation available for the first review of their implementation is set out in document E/CN.7/1992/6.

3. Specifically, the Commission should therefore examine:

(i) how it will review implementation of the GPA;

(ii) how it will review implementation and development of the SWAP; and

(iii) how it will give policy guidance to and monitor the activities of UNDCP.

(i) Implementation of the GPA

4. Paragraph 97 of the GPA requests the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly on implementation of the GPA. The Secretary-General's report on this matter is combined with his report to the Assembly on overall coordination in the United Nations system. That report is prepared by the secretariat in the course of the early fall of each year on the basis of data available from Governments and from organizations of the United Nations system. It is suggested that that document, supplemented as explained below, could constitute the basis of the Commission's consideration of this matter.

5. The Executive Director will, beginning with the present session, present to the Commission an annual report on UNDCP activities. That report, which will cover the entire previous calendar year, can be regarded as a supplement to the report referred to above with regard at least to UNDCP activities. The report to the General Assembly and the report of the Executive Director to the Commission, together with a complementary note by the Secretariat on whatever implementation activity by Governments it has identified during the latter part of the previous year, could thus constitute the documentary basis for Commission's action on this mandate.

6. The Commission will want to examine whether this approach satisfies its requirements or how it can be improved on, and instruct its secretariat accordingly.

(ii) Implementation and development of the SWAP

7. In its resolution 1990/87, the Economic and Social Council confirmed that SWAP "aimed at the full implementation of all existing mandates and subsequent decisions of intergovernmental bodies throughout the United Nations system". Those mandates can be added to from time to time by legislative bodies or become obsolete for various reasons. The SWAP is therefore subject to review and revision; and in resolution 45/179, by which UNDCP was established, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to review the SWAP in the light of the structural changes called for by the creation of UNDCP. This explains why the Commission on Narcotic Drugs is called upon to review not only the "implementation" but also the "development" of the SWAP.

8. Review by the Commission of implementation of the SWAP could be based on the activities of UNDCP as reflected in the report of the Executive Director for the previous year, together with written or oral reports by the other United Nations system organizations active in the field of international drug control.

9. The SWAP, which originated from a request of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), is reviewed and revised as required through the mechanism of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Coordination. That meeting is normally convened twice a year by the ACC and chaired by the Executive Director of UNDCP. The basis for any consideration of the "development" of the SWAP by the Commission would logically be the latest version of the SWAP which has been cleared by all concerned organizations. When such a review process is underway but not complete (as is the case at the present session) the Commission would have before it the last approved version updated by any intermediate documentation which can be presented, as well as oral reports.

(iii) Monitoring of UNDCP activities and policy guidance

10. With respect to its mandate to monitor UNDCP activities, the Commission will have before it at each session (i) the report of the Executive Director on UNDCP activities during the previous year, (ii) documentation relating to technical cooperation projects financed by the UNDCP Fund, and (iii) ad hoc reports on implementation of specific requests of the Commission, of the Economic and Social Council, or of the General Assembly.

11. It is assumed that policy guidance would usually take the form of comments during Commission sessions that would, when appropriate, be reflected in its report; although the Commission may wish occasionally to adopt formal decisions or resolutions depending on the subject.

B. Mandates arising from action by the General Assembly

Consideration by the Commission of the ways and means in which it wishes to carry out its new administrative and financial functions following the request of the General Assembly

12. In paragraph 2 of section XVI of its resolution 46/185 A of 20 December 1991, the General Assembly authorized the Commission on Narcotic Drugs "to approve, on the basis of the Executive Director's proposals, both the budget of the Fund's programme and the administrative and programme support costs budget, other than expenditures borne by the United Nations regular budget" and requested the Commission "to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the ways in which it plans to carry out the administrative and financial functions".

13. First, one should note that the Commission has decided only last year that it should be convened "during the period between the third calendar week of March and the third calendar week of April". Second, taking into account a recent request of the Economic and Social Council, meetings of its subsidiary bodies should end at least eight weeks before the opening of the Council's session. As the Council is now expected to hold its annual session in July every year, the month of April is indeed the latest the Commission could meet. However, April is too late for the Commission to approve the current year's technical cooperation and administrative budget as the secretariat cannot wait until then before expenditures can be authorized. On the other hand, in April the income of the following year is not yet known and it is therefore too early to approve the following year's budget. Taking into account the practice already followed by the governing bodies of other Funds and Programmes, however, the secretariat proposes that the Commission approve budget estimates for a biennium as outlined below.

14. At the current session, the Commission has before it (i) the financial report of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control for 1991 1/ and the (ii) UNDCP Fund programme budget estimates and administrative and programme support costs estimates for the biennium 1992-1993. 2/ The first document contains detailed information on actual expenditure and programme delivery. The second document contains the estimated resource requirements and utilization for the biennium 1992-1993; for 1992, the estimates are based on actual income, while the 1993 estimates are only projections based on pipeline projects and reasonable forecasts on the basis of past practice. Its presentation is modeled on the budget "fascicle" prepared by the Secretary-General for each chapter of the regular budget of the United Nations and submitted for approval to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. It contains the following information:

1/ E/CN.7/1992/CRP.10
2/ Addendum to E/CN.7/1992/12

(a) For the administrative and programme support costs budget:

- Total projected resources and expected resource utilization for 1992-1993;

- Staffing requirements during 1992-1993 to support the programme;

- Proposed allotments for 1992 and 1993 for administrative and programme support costs (by object of expenditure).

A narrative part provides full explanations of the proposals and their justification. It also proposes a methodology for the presentation of the budget estimates.

(b) For the technical co-operation budget:

- Total projected resources and expected resource utilization for 1992-1993;

- Proposed programme budget for 1992 and budget estimates for 1993 broken down by regions and sectors of activity, accompanied by illustrating graphs. The funding situation (earmarked as opposed to general purpose contributions) is also indicated.

A narrative part gives explanations and justifications of the planned technical cooperation, in 1992-1993, providing more information on the budgetary estimates contained in the aforementioned tables. Information on the field operations support budget for those two years is also provided.

15. The Commission will also have before it the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the administrative and programme support costs budget of the UNDCP Fund as proposed by the Executive Director, pursuant to paragraph 3 of section XVI of General Assembly resolution 46/185 A.

16. At its thirty-sixth session (in 1993), the Commission would have before it revised estimates for 1992-1993, based on actual expenditure for 1992 and known income for 1993. At the same time, a first projection for 1994 (which would be a broad budget outline) would also be presented by the Executive Director.

17. Should the Commission endorse for the future this proposal of the secretariat, the calendar of submissions from UNDCP would be as follows:

First year of a biennium: budget estimates are considered and approved for the biennium, on the basis of known income for the first year and on projections for the second;

Second year of a biennium: revised budget estimates are considered and approved on the basis of known expenditure and programme delivery during the first year and on known income for the second year of the biennium. A projection (budget outline) for the first year of the following biennium is also considered and approved.

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION

A. Discussion

18. From the informal consultations held prior to the thirty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as well as discussions at that session, it has become clear that the Global Programme of Action and the establishment of UNDCP will both have to be taken into consideration in organizing future sessions. The concept of priority themes for a given session was also raised. At the same time the need to maintain treaty-based functions as a separate category was recognized.

19. The agenda for the present session of the Commission reflects a consensus at the thirty-fourth session. Since then, the Council has added formally to the Commission's mandate as outlined in chapter I, section A, above. As reflected in chapter I, section B, above, the General Assembly has also added to that mandate.

20. The draft provisional agenda presented below by the secretariat takes the foregoing into account and builds on progress made at the last session of the Commission. The sequence of items is based on the assumption that the Commission would first examine the worldwide situation under its item on general debate. It would then take note of the activites of its secretariat as reflected in the report of the Executive Director on the work of UNDCP. Treaty-based functions would remain separate. Priority topics would be identified as required. Review of the GPA and SWAP as mandated by the Council would be grouped together, as would be the administrative and budgetary functions mandates from the General Assembly. The nature of those functions do not logically permit them to be all grouped under one item, especially as the Commission has still to decide how it will carry out each of the functions.

21. The Executive Director is especially desirous of respecting the numerous requests of the General Assembly to reduce documentation. While doing so, it is clear that the Commission should have available whatever information is needed, particularly if the Commission is called upon to take a decision. The secretariat will therefore in future try to present all data required for the consideration of an agenda item in a concise, action-oriented document. Whenever possible, there will be only one document for an item or, when required, a sub-item.

B. Provisional agenda and documentation

22. Taking into account the above considerations and in accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the secretariat suggests to the Commission the following draft provisional agenda for its next session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted for its consideration.

1. Election of Officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda
Annotated provisional agenda

3. General debate: Examination of the world situation with respect to drug abuse, including illicit demand, illicit trafficking and illicit supply.

Documentation

Reports by the Secretariat (as necessary)

Reports of the regional HONLEAs and of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board (Relevant part)

Reports of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

4. Activities of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director on the work of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

5. Implementation of the international drug control treaties.

(a) Changes in the scope of control of substances;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (as necessary)

(b) International Narcotics Control Board;

Documentation

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1991 (Relevant part)

(c) Other urgent action required under the international drug control conventions.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat (as necessary).

6. Priority topics.

(to be identified)

Documentation

Notes by the Secretariat (as necessary)

7. Monitoring of the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and of the implementation and development of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat

8. Administrative and budgetary matters.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat

9. Draft agenda of the next session and future work.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat

10. Other matters.

Documentation

(as necessary)

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission at thirty-sixth session.